Experience American Higher Education in the Gulf

American University of Sharjah, founded in 1997, is a not-for-profit, independent, coeducational institution of higher education formed on the American model. AUS integrates liberal studies and professional education to give its graduates both breadth and specialization. AUS is licensed and its programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Education’s Higher Education Affairs Division in the United Arab Emirates. AUS is accredited in the United States of America by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, Tel +1 215 662 5606).

AUS admits students solely on the basis of their academic qualifications regardless of race, color, gender, religion, disabilities, age or national origin. AUS offers 26 majors and 45 minors at the undergraduate level and 14 graduate programs through the College of Architecture, Art and Design; the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Engineering; and the School of Business Administration.

The Bachelor of Architecture program of the College of Architecture, Art and Design is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) of the United States.

The College of Architecture, Art and Design provides a comprehensive and relevant professional education. We expect our graduates to make significant contributions to the Gulf region and the broader global community through conscientious participation in practice. Our pedagogy is grounded in process-centered learning that integrates theoretical knowledge with hands-on skills and competence in digital and other media.

Foundations Program

The Foundations Program is a unique feature of undergraduate education in the College of Architecture, Art and Design. The program delivers a common basic design education that provides students the practical, theoretical and critical knowledge required to succeed in the second year of their studio major. All students must successfully complete the foundation year before competing to advance to the second year of their chosen studio major.
Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)

Architecture encompasses designing, creating and developing forms and spaces for buildings that inspire, cultivate and satisfy human needs and aspirations. As the region’s most prestigious architecture program, we offer a comprehensive curriculum as well as a diverse studio environment, both of which encourage creative, critical approaches to design. Our program, which requires five years of university studies plus professional training, is for students who seek a professional career in architecture. With a curriculum designed to meet the requirements for licensure that prevail in the United Arab Emirates, our graduates are prepared for professional practice throughout the region. Our Bachelor of Architecture program is the first program of its kind outside North America to be granted accreditation by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) of the United States.

Bachelor of Interior Design (BID)

Interior design encompasses the development and implementation of comprehensive designs for interior environments of architecture. Our Bachelor of Interior Design program prepares dynamic, creative individuals who seek careers as professional interior designers. Our four-year curriculum aims to meet or exceed established international accreditation criteria and prepares the graduate for professional interior design practice in the United Arab Emirates and throughout the region.

Bachelor of Science in Design Management (BSDM)

Our design management program, the only one of its kind in the region, offers students the opportunity to study design in the wider context of entrepreneurship and management of the creative process. Our students take design courses in the College of Architecture, Art and Design as well as business classes in the School of Business Administration. Our students specialize in strong management skills and an understanding and appreciation of the creative process. Upon graduation, they can enter the workforce as design professionals and contribute to the future direction of regional design and visual culture.
Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Design (BSMD)

Our multimedia design program provides an intensive background in design and offers specialized classes in digital media, motion graphics, animation and film. We also offer a wide range of elective classes. Our graduates are currently working in broadcasting, web and interactive design, filmmaking and animation. Some of them are even working as in-house production professionals in industries around the region. Our program of study builds on strong traditions of visual experimentation and professional preparation and focuses on the complexities of design process and strategic thinking.

Bachelor of Science in Visual Communication (BSVC)

Our curriculum emphasizes experiential learning in the studio and encourages our students to work closely with faculty to become proficient conceptual thinkers and creative problem solvers. In addition to the core design classes, the visual communication major offers specialized classes in design topics such as illustration, printmaking, advanced photography and publication design for print and digital media. Many of our graduates are working in creative positions in the publishing, advertising and media industries, as art directors, producers, design directors and account executives. Some of our other graduates have gone on to teaching positions at respected schools in the region.

Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

As the first professional program of its kind in the UAE, our Master in Urban Planning degree prepares skilled professionals and leaders in planning and managing urban development. Our program is taught by a multinational and distinguished faculty. Full-time students typically register for three courses a semester and complete the program in two years. Part-time students typically register for two or three courses a semester and complete the program in 2.5 or more years. Our graduates are leaders in improving the built environment in the region and beyond.